



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 3D

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee
and Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: June 15, 2020

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Review and discussion regarding the 2019 Carson City Bee City USA #76 annual report.

Staff Summary: The Carson City Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to designate Carson City, NV as the first Bee City USA affiliate in Nevada on October 18, 2018. Attached with this staff report is a summary of activities and events accomplished during Carson City's first year as a Bee City affiliate.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Proposed Motion

N/A

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

October 18, 2018 – Board of Supervisors: 18.A For Possible Action: To adopt a resolution to designate Carson City, NV as a Bee City USA affiliate.

Background/Issues & Analysis

Bee City USA is an initiative of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a national nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with regional offices in thirteen states. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides. Imperiled pollinators like honeybees, bumble bees, butterflies, moths, bats, hummingbirds, and others are responsible for the reproduction of nearly ninety percent of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

On October 18, 2018, Carson City became the 76th Bee City USA affiliate in the nation, and the 1st in the state, setting an example for the rest of Nevada to choose to promote pollinator populations too. Through this designation, Carson City acknowledges the importance of pollinators to healthy ecosystems, agriculture and the local economy. Due to the dramatic declines in pollinator populations globally, Carson City committed to supporting bees and other pollinators in our Parks and Open Space, as well as on private land. In order to enhance understanding among staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play, and what each of us can do to sustain them, Carson City agreed to establish and maintain a Carson City Bee City USA Committee – to help promote and educate the public on what each of us can do to promote sustainable pollinator habitat in Carson City. Ultimately- becoming a Bee City USA affiliate was a commitment to the cause of pollinator conservation in Carson City; and participation in this program will help ensure the survival of vital pollinator species in our community.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

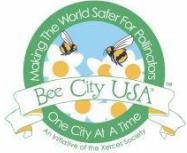
Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)



Carson City Bee City USA #76 2019 Annual Report



The Carson City Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to designate Carson City, Nevada as the first Bee City USA affiliate in Nevada, and the 76th in the Nation on October 18, 2018.

2019 was a busy and exciting first year for the Carson City Bee City USA #76 Program! This report includes a snapshot of Bee City USA activities and accomplishments during that time.



This report includes information on the following:

- ✓ Acknowledgements
- ✓ Habitat Creation
- ✓ Integrated Pest Management
- ✓ Education and Outreach Events
- ✓ Public Meetings

Acknowledgements

Carson City would like to thank the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada for their passion and support throughout the process of receiving the Bee City USA designation, in addition to funding the annual program establishment fees. Carson City would not have received this designation if it weren't for the hard work and dedication of this group.

Additionally, Carson City would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their continued support and assistance: Carson City Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Department; 2019 Carson City Chamber Leadership Group; The Greenhouse Project; Greenhouse Garden Center; Carson City Historical Society; The Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center; The Carson Water Subconservancy District; Carson City Climate Action Committee; Mark Twain Garden Club; the Carson City Culture and Tourism Authority and countless residents and volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to help create pollinator habitat.

Habitat Creation

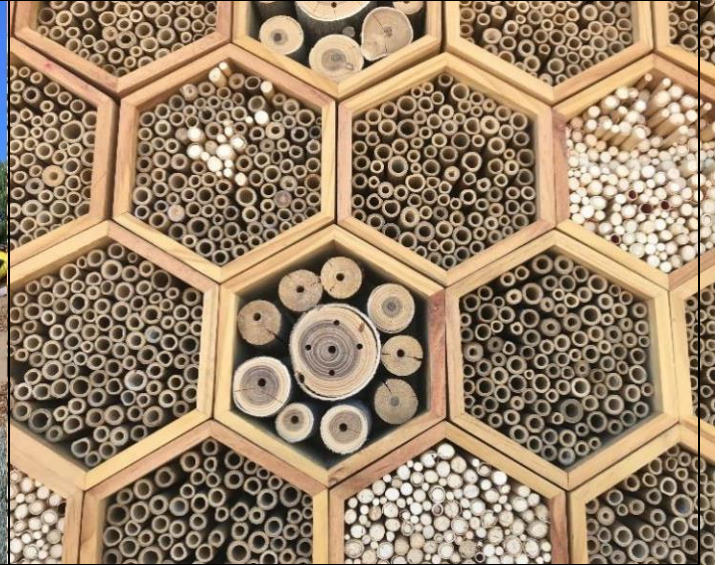
Summary: In 2019, Carson City seeded approximately **240** acres of disturbed landscape with a pollinator friendly seed blend. Primarily, this acreage included areas that had been burned by wildfire, but also included areas where we are working to reclaim decommissioned roads and trails. Carson City also worked to establish specific areas of new pollinator habitat – including a Pollinator Garden and Carson City Chamber Leadership 'Bee Hotel'. These projects were spearheaded by community members and fueled by the momentum of our Bee City USA designation.

Chamber Leadership Bee Hotel

Following Carson City's designation as a Bee City USA in 2018, the 2019 Carson City Chamber Leadership group wanted to complete a project dedicated to pollinator conservation. As a result, they designed and installed a Bee Hotel at our Foothill Garden Site – an area that already supported sustainable agriculture and food production in Carson City. Now, with the inclusion of the Bee Hotel the Foothill Garden has become an amazing site for children and adults alike to learn more about the connection between our food and pollinator services.



Children enjoying the newly installed Bee Hotel.



Close-up of Mason Bee cells.

Foothill Pollinator Garden

In conjunction with the Bee Hotel, Carson City staff worked with the Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center and The Greenhouse Project to grow native flowers and plant them in a garden adjacent to the new Bee Hotel to provide forage for the bees. This garden is also adjacent to the 'Serenity Trail' which is prescribed as a wellness trail to patients and their families by the Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center.



Late season blooms at the Pollinator Garden.



Volunteer work to weed and plant seedlings.



California Bluebells flowering.



A colorful palette to feed diverse pollinators.

Restoration Activities

The Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department completes restoration on disturbed areas every year. These are areas where weeds have been eradicated, fires have taken place or we're working to establish more native vegetation. Since becoming a Bee City USA, City staff have worked to incorporate pollinator friendly plant species into all seed blends. Below are photos of the flowers that started to come back naturally after a 220-acre wildfire that was seeded in 2019. This area is located adjacent to the Carson River and is an important natural resource for pollinators and wildlife alike.



Great Basin native forbs Indian Paintbrush (left) and Cushion Buckwheat (right) growing after wildfire.

Pollinator Friendly Plant List

Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff worked to compile a list of pollinator friendly plants that are native to this area or are locally adapted for use in restoration, landscaping or development

proposals. Nearly 160 plants were included on this list, and it includes local sources for obtaining seedlings or seeds. Carson City has since made it a condition of approval to prospective property developers in Carson City that 50% of the plant palette proposed for their development must be selected from this list. So far developers have been very willing and excited to comply with this condition and our hope is to create pockets of habitat throughout the City with this approach. The list is also available via our Bee City webpage for residents to use for home and garden plant selections as well.

Integrated Pest Management

Summary: While the Carson City Integrated Pest Management Plan is still in progress, we have continued to implement a variety of IPM principles in Parks and Open Spaces. Specifically, we removed plants by hand when appropriate - species included Puncturevine, Bull Thistle, Poison Hemlock and various aquatic invasive plants. Additionally, we worked with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) to conduct a biocontrol release of a naturally occurring rust fungus to target the noxious weed Canada Thistle through non-chemical means. We also worked with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to complete corridor clearing by hand along a trail that would have been previously treated with chemical herbicides. Additionally, we completed solarization on noxious weeds occurring adjacent to organic farms and gardens, including our Foothill Garden site in order to avoid using herbicides in these sensitive food production locations. These are all practices we have implemented in the past and will continue to implement and expand upon in order to reduce our dependency on chemical herbicides in the future.

Education and Outreach Events

Summary: Getting the word out about pollinator conservation is an essential component for the Carson City Bee City USA #76 group. An aware and engaged community is crucial for helping us accomplish our primary goals of educating the public on what they can do in their own homes and yards to preserve and protect pollinators. In 2019, approximately 25 events were held throughout Carson City to promote pollinator conservation and awareness. These events ranged from Earth Day, to guided hikes, to beekeeping classes. We are especially proud of the outreach we have done this year and look forward to getting more involved with the community in 2020!

2019 Education and Outreach Events		
Date	Name	Location
January 9	1 st Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center
January 25 & 26	Beginning Beekeeping Class	Bee Magic Building
February 22 & 23	Beekeeping Plus Class	Bee Magic Building
March 1 & 2	Beekeeping Plus Class	Bee Magic Building
March 30	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday I	Foothill Pollinator Garden
April 3	2 nd Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center
April 6	Learn to GROW: Gardening Workshop	Carson City Community Center
April 18 & 19	Capital City Farm Days	Fuji Park and Fairgrounds
April 20	Wildflower Walk	Longview Trail

April 28	Earth Day	Robert's House
May 18	Kids to Parks Day	Silver Saddle Ranch
May 19	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday II	Foothill Pollinator Garden
June 7	Bee Hotel Ribbon Cutting	Foothill Pollinator Garden
June 15	Pollinator Class	Greenhouse Garden Center
June 16-22	National Pollinator Week	City-wide
June 17	Pollinator Interpretive Hike	Longview Trail
June 19	Pollinator Tot Trek	Carson River Park
June 22	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday III	Foothill Pollinator Garden
July 1-30	Carson City Library Display	Carson City Library
July 24	3 rd Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center
August 17	National Honeybee Day	City-wide
August 19	World Bee Day	City-wide
August 24	Citizen Science iNaturalist Workshop	Foothill Pollinator Garden
September 7	Pollinator Garden Volunteer Workday IV	Foothill Pollinator Garden
October 2	4 th Quarter Bee City USA Meeting	Carson City Community Center

Earth Day

2019 Earth Day was co-sponsored by the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada and the Carson City Historical Society and held the theme "Celebrating Pollinators" to teach residents about our recent Bee City designation, as well as pollinator conservation practices. The day also featured guest speakers who spoke about Integrated Pest Management and chemical reduction strategies, planting for pollinators and climate change impacts to pollinator conservation.



Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada and Chamber Leadership group.

Carson City "Celebrates Pollinators!"

Interpretive Hikes

Throughout 2019 Carson City sponsored several guided interpretive hikes for children and adults, covering a variety of pollinator topics including a Pollinator Tot Trek - a scavenger hunt for young children where they try to spot a bee, butterfly or flower in nature, a Citizen Science event promoting the use of iNaturalist to identify pollinators, or a Wildflower Walk where we highlight and identify local plant species and discuss the importance of pollinators. Additionally, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space worked with the Nevada Natural Heritage Program to lead a guided hike to identify the endemic Carson Valley Monkeyflower, an important early spring forb that grows in carpets over much of Carson City during a high precipitation year.

Farm Days

Farm Days is an annual education event for pre-K to elementary aged children. The focus of the event is animal husbandry and agriculture and is a very important event for groups like the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada (GBBN). Approximately 2,000 children participate in the event each year, and with the help of GBBN they learn about how important bees are to pollinate the one in three bites of food we eat. Additionally, they get the opportunity to taste some delicious local honey while they are there.



Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada leaders and Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee members.



Honey tasting with children.

Public Meetings

Summary: After designation as a Bee City USA, Carson City worked to form a group of committee members to help guide the program. The committee is made up of Carson City staff and Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada members who were integral to the Bee City designation process. The Carson City Bee City USA #76 Committee held four public meetings – January, April, July and October – to help educate the public about the Bee City Program, Introduction to Beekeeping, as well as a special event held at Greenhouse Garden Center to educate the public on protecting pollinators in their yards during fall clean-up. We look forward to engaging the public similarly in 2020.



Original Carson City Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee.



2020 Carson City Bee City USA #76 Executive Committee.



Contact

This annual report was compiled by Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist for Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space with input from the Carson City Bee City #76 Committee and Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada. If you are interested in obtaining more information about the Carson City Bee City USA #76 or would like to get more involved, please contact us at the information below.

Thank you and Bee Happy!



Lyndsey Boyer

Carson City Liaison
3303 Butti Way Bldg. #9
Carson City, NV 89701
LBoyer@carson.org
775-283-7341



Kelly Clark/Rex Jennings

Committee Co-Chairs
Bee Magic Building
NV Highway 341, #44
Mound House, NV 89706
BeeCityUSACarsonCity76@gmail.com